GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2058
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2004
DEATHS OF TRIBAL CHILDREN
Kamat Shri Gurudas

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribal children have died due to malnourishment-related causes in Maharashtra as reported in `The Times of India` dated July 6, 2004;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) whether as per the UNICEF figures, about 2.3 million children under the age of five die annually in our country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save the children from mal- nourishment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SMT.PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a)&(b)As per information received from the Government of Maharashtra, during the month of April and May, 2004, 1041 children died due to various reasons like low birth weight, prematurity, pneumonia, birth asphyxia, febrile convulsions etc. Out of the aforesaid deaths, only 59 children were malnourished.

(c) As per the UNICEF report entitled `The State of the World`s Children 2004`, 2.3 million children under five die annually in India.

(d) The Government has initiated several measures to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable population,including children, in the country including the State of Maharashtra to overcome the problem of malnutrition, as under :-

- Increased Agricultural Production.

- Improving the purchasing power of the people through income generating schemes.

- Availability of essential food items at subsidized cost through Public Distribution System.

- Nutrition education to increase the awareness and bringing about the desired changes in the feeding practices including promotion of breast feeding. - Supplementary feeding programmes such as :-

i) Integrated Child Deelopment Services Scheme (ICDS).

ii) Special Nutrition Programme (SNP).

iii) Balwadi Nutrition Programme (BNP).

iv) Wheat Based Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

v) Pradhan Mantri Grameen Yojna (PMGY).

vi) Mid-day Meal Programme.

- Programme for Prevention of Specific Nutrient Deficiency Disorders such as:

National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.

Programme to prevent Blindness due to Vitamin `A` deficiency and Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron deficiency as a part of Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

Pilot Project for control of Micronutrient Malnutrition.